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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/720,018  
Filed : November 24, 2003  
Applicant : VERHO et al.  
TC/A.U. : 1645  
Examiner : Zeman, Robert A.  
  
Docket No. : 2530-120  
Customer No. : 06449  
Confirmation No. : 3149

**AMENDMENT**

Director of the United States Patent  
and Trademark Office  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the final Office Action dated May 25, 2006,  
Applicants submit the following response and amendments.

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 2.

**Remarks** begin on page 8.